

What is claimed is:

~~1) A method of segmenting a software work product, comprising the steps of:~~

~~b) Providing a computer with a memory that is able to store data at a series of addresses in said memory, providing an input means that at least one agent can be used to store data in~~

~~said memory at said respective series of addresses,~~

~~e) storing said data in said memory at said series of addresses,~~

~~d) providing an output device which is operatively connected to said memory for presenting to an output space of at least one dimension discernable to at least one agent, said data stored in said memory at said series of addresses,~~

~~e) providing a means that at least one agent can manipulate to indicate any and all parts of said output space in a manner that at least one agent can continue to manipulate to indicate smaller and smaller parts of parts until subsets of parts can no longer be indicated,~~

~~f) providing a means to isolate and separately identify said parts,~~

~~1) providing a means to store in said memory at a series of addresses said isolated and separately identified said parts, the method for a computer user to dynamically and automatically subdivide a software work product, such as a document, and further subdivide any subdivisions until it can not be subdivided further.~~

~~g)~~

~~whereby at least one agent can easily divide the software work product in a manner that adds greater utility while no longer treating the software work product as a monolith that can not be divided.~~

- 2) The method of ~~subdividing~~segmenting a software work product of Claim 1, further including a method that, when displayingmeans- the whole software work product or any subdivision, automatically updates the whole software work product or any subdivision with the most current version of any and all subdivisions of what is being displayed,~~for at least one agent to separately control the actions on said parts while not allowing at least one other agent the means to separately control the actions on said parts.~~
- 3) The method of subdividing a software work product of Claim 1, further including a method for one participant to separately control the actions on said subdivisions while not allowing another participant to separately control the actions on said subdivisions.
- 3)~~The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 2, wherein said means for at least one agent to separately control the actions on said parts is providing a means to modify said parts.~~
- 4)~~The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 3, further including the steps of:~~
- a)~~providing a means to store in said memory a copy of said modified parts,~~
- b)~~providing a means whereby at least one agent who has control of said parts can present to said output space the copy of said parts stored in a series of addresses in said memory in a way that replaces the existing said parts in said output space.~~
- 5)~~The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 3, further including the steps of:~~

~~a)providing a means whereby at least one agent who has control of said parts can present to said output space the said parts under the control of all other agents, stored in a series of addresses in said memory, in a way without causing modification to said parts under control of said agent.~~

~~6)The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 2, wherein said means for at least one agent to separately control the actions on said parts is a means comprising the steps of:~~

~~a)providing a means to no longer isolate and separately identify said parts,~~

~~b)providing a means to disassociate said parts stored in said memory at said series of addresses.~~

~~7)The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 2, wherein said means for at least one agent to separately control the actions on said parts is a means comprising the steps of:~~

~~a)providing a means to remove said parts,~~

~~b)providing a means to no longer isolate and separately identify said parts,~~

~~c)providing a means to disassociate said parts stored in said memory at said series of addresses.~~

~~8)The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 2, wherein at least one agent who has said means to separately control the actions on said parts can perform~~

~~these actions in a separate geographic location from at least one agent who has the means to separately control the actions on other said parts.~~

~~9)The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 2, wherein at least one agent who has said means to separately control the actions on said parts can perform these actions at a different time as at least one agent who has the means to separately control the actions on other said parts.~~

~~10)The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 2, wherein at least one agent who has said means to separately control the actions on said parts can perform these actions at the same geographic location from at least one agent who has the means to separately control the actions on other said parts.~~

~~11)The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 2, wherein at least one agent who has said means to separately control the actions on said parts can perform these actions at the same time as at least one agent who has the means to separately control the actions on other said parts.~~

~~12)The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 2, wherein at least one agent who has means to separately control the actions on said parts can perform these actions when said memory is not accessible by at least one other agent.~~

~~13)The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 12, further including the steps of:~~

~~a)providing a means for at least one agent who has means to separately control the actions of said parts to transition from where said memory is not accessible by at least one other agent to where said memory is accessible by at least one other agent,~~

~~b)providing a means whereby said memory that is not accessible by at least one other agent and stores said parts will move copies of said parts under the control of at least one agent to the memory that is accessible by at least one other agent.~~

~~14)The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 2, wherein at least one agent who does not have the means to separately control the actions on said parts can perform these actions when said memory is not accessible by at least one other agent.~~

~~15)4) The method of segmenting subdividing a software work product of Claim 14,
further including the method of any participant to display the whole software work product or any subdivisionsteps of.~~

5) The method of subdividing a software work product of Claim 1, further including the method that for any participant who does not have control of any subdivision and modifies any subdivision, upon saving, the modification will not overwrite the existing stored subdivision and the participant will automatically be queried to suggest the modification as an alternative. If the participant agrees the alternative will be stored separately under the control of participant who makes the suggestion and associated with the original subdivision that is not under control of the participant.

6) The method of subdividing a software work product of Claim 1, further including the method that for any participant to suggest an alternative of a software work product or any subdivision that will be stored separately under the control of the participant who makes the suggestion and associated with the original software work product or subdivision.

~~a)providing a means for at least one agent who does not have the means to separately control the actions of said parts to transition from where said memory is not accessible by at least one other agent to where said memory is accessible by at least one other agent,~~

~~b)providing a means whereby said memory that is not accessible by at least one other agent and stores said parts will be compared to said parts under the control of at least one other agent,~~

~~c)providing a means whereby at least one agent who does not have control can automatically create a new software work product that is an alternative to said parts under control of at least one other agent,~~

~~d)providing a means so that said new software work product is associated with said parts of existing software work product,~~

~~e)providing a means to store in said memory said association.~~

~~16)The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 2, wherein at least one agent who has means to separately control the actions on said parts can perform these actions when said memory is accessible by at least one other agent.~~

~~17)The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 16, further including the steps of:~~

~~a)providing a means for said agent to automatically transmit to said output space of at least one other agent data about said actions.~~

~~18)The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 2, further including the steps of:~~

~~a)providing a means for at least one agent to separately control the actions of one subpart of said parts alone and separate from said parts in its own output space.~~

~~19)The method of segmenting subdividing a software work product of Claim 12, further including the steps of:method to~~

~~a)7) providing a means for at least one agent to aggregate subdivisionsparts of said parts into a superpart subdivision that contains said aggregated subpartssubdivisions.~~

~~20)The method of segmenting subdividing a software work product of Claim 1, further including a means for at least one agentthe method for a participant to create new software products and associate them with said partssubdivisions.~~

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~~21)9) The method of segmenting subdividing a software work product of Claim 1, wherein said segmenting subdividing of the software work product is physical.~~

22)The method of ~~segmenting~~subdividing a software work product of Claim 1, wherein said ~~segmenting~~subdividing of the software work product is logical.

23)~~The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 1, wherein said agent is human or non-human.~~

24)~~The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 1, further including the steps of:~~

- ~~a)providing a means for at least one agent to create a new software work product,~~
- ~~b)providing a means that said new software work product is associated with existing software work product,~~
- ~~c)providing a means to store in said memory said association.~~

25)~~The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 1, further including the steps of:~~

- ~~a)10)providing a means for at least one agent to place controls on the kinds of actions that can occur on each subpart of said parts.~~

11) The method of subdividing a software work product of Claim 1, further including the method for a participant to place controls on the kinds of actions that can occur on each subdivision.

26)~~The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 1, further including the steps of:~~

~~a)providing a means for at least one agent to select what subset of said parts stored in said memory for said output device to present in said output space.~~

27)The method of ~~segmenting~~subdividing a software work product of Claim 1, further including the steps of: method of

~~a)12)providing a means for~~not storing the content of the subdivision within the parent whole work product or subdivision, but with markers to indicate subdivision location.
~~at least one agent to select what subset of said parts to store in said memory so that super parts that are stored are not stored with subpart content, but with markers to indicate subpart location,~~

~~b)providing a means for at least one agent to expand said parts with said markers to indicate subpart location so that said subparts stored in said memory are presented by said output device in said output space in fully expanded manner.~~

28)The method of ~~segmenting~~subdividing a software work product of Claim 1, further including the steps of:method for a participant to determine what data he or she will receive about actions on said subdivisions.

~~a)providing a means for at least one agent to indicate what subset of said parts said agent will automatically receive data about actions on said parts by at least one other agent,~~

~~b)13)providing a means for at least one agent to indicate what subset of said parts said agent will automatically transmit data about actions on said subset to at least one other agent.~~

14) The method of subdividing a software work product of Claim 1, further including the method for a participant to determine what data will automatically be transmitted about actions on said subdivisions to other participants.

a) ~~The method of segmenting~~ subdividing a software work product of Claim 1, further including the ~~steps of~~ method of recording an action on said subdivisions.

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a) ~~providing a means to record an action on said parts.~~

~~30) The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 29 wherein the means to record an action includes storing of electronic signatures associated with said parts.~~

~~31) The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 29 wherein the means to record an action includes storing of the date and time that an agent reviewed said parts.~~

32) The method of ~~segmenting~~ subdividing a software work product of Claim 1, further including the method of associating actions on said subdivisions. ~~steps of:~~

a) ~~16) providing a means to associate actions on subsets of said parts.~~

~~33) The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 32 wherein the means to associate actions is a workflow action on said subset of said parts.~~

~~34) The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 32 wherein the means to associate actions is a project management action on said subset of said parts.~~

~~35)The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 32 wherein the means to associate actions is a vote on said subset of said parts.~~

~~36)The method of segmenting subdividing a software work product of Claim 1, further including the steps of: method to~~

~~a)17)providing a means to create entirely new software work products from combining said parts subdivisions from other software work products.~~

~~37)The method of segmenting a software work product of Claim 36 wherein the means to associate actions is a workflow action.~~

~~38)The method of segmenting subdividing a software work product of Claim 1, further including the steps of: method to~~

~~a)18)providing a means to associate any part subdivision with any other part subdivision in the same or different software work products.~~

19) A method of integrating collaboration functionality within existing software applications

~~39)A method of integrating collaboration functionality within software applications, comprising the steps of:~~

~~a)providing a memory that is able to store data at a series of addresses in said memory;~~

~~b)providing an input means that at least one agent can use to store data in said memory at said respective series of addresses;~~

~~e)storing said data in said memory at said series of addresses,~~

~~d)providing an output device which is operatively connected to said memory for
presenting to an output space of at least one dimension discernable to at least one
agent, said data stored in said memory at said series of addresses,~~

~~e)providing a means to integrate collaborative functionality by adding into existing
application structures,~~

~~whereby at least one agent can easily collaborate and share information with at least one
other agent.~~

40)20) The method of integrating collaboration functionality within software applications
of Claim 1839, further including the steps of:method to place a window within the
application space itself.

a) The method of integrating collaboration functionality within software applications of
Claim 18, further including the method ~~providing a means to place a window within
the application space itself,~~

b)21) ~~providing a general means to capture keystrokes within the applications and control
actions based on capturing these keystrokes.~~